



December 13, 2007

Maritime Strategy – CNO Testimony

"We have been too long without strategic guidance for our maritime forces. I am pleased to have been a part of this maritime strategy development. It is a strategy that charts the right course for our maritime services at this point in time."

-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

On December 13, the CNO was accompanied by the commandants of the Marine Corps and Coast Guard to present *The Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower* to the House Armed Services Committee. The testimony served to:

Inform congressional leaders and the public on the importance of the Maritime Strategy

- International partnerships and cooperation will underpin global and therefore American prosperity.
- Ongoing activities ranging from maritime security and maritime domain awareness operations in vital strategic straits to activities under the Proliferation Security Initiative to dissuade the transfer of weapons of mass destruction show that cooperative opportunities and similar activities will be important to our future.

Stress significance of the strategy which is distinct from the forces required to execute the strategy

- Developed jointly among the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, the strategy addresses the role of seapower in protecting the security and prosperity of our people. The strategy is designed to articulate how maritime forces will be employed in support of our nation's National Security and National Military strategies.
- The Maritime Strategy will shape and inform ongoing analysis about the resources and force structure required to implement the maritime strategy. The Navy is still finalizing the Navy Strategic Plan (NSP) and the Naval Operations Concept. The NSP translates strategy into guidance for the development of the Program Objective Memorandum (POM) and will align our FY2010 budget submission to our new strategy.

Explain the uniqueness of the maritime strategy

The maritime strategy reaffirms our unbending commitment to forward presence, to deterrence, to sea control and power projection, but the strategy is unique for three reasons.

- All three maritime services participated in the development and are signatories.
- It takes the bold step of committing to a higher level of cooperation with maritime services around the world – a commitment that sea-going forces are uniquely able to meet.
- Affirms that while we will remain the preeminent warfighting force this maritime nation expects, we also intend to pursue proactive humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and maritime security operations.

Key Messages

- The American people want their maritime services to remain strong, defend the homeland and protect American citizens.
- Our new strategy represents unprecedented collaboration between our Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, in both formulation and implementation.
- The Maritime Strategy is a capstone document within a family of strategic guidance and provides the framework for the Naval Operations Concept and Navy Strategic Plan.

Facts & Figures

- 75% of world is water; 80% of the world's population lives on or near the coastline, and 90% of the world's trade including 2/3 of the world's petroleum moves across the sea to market.
- "Conversations with the Country" allowed the American people to provide input and feedback during maritime strategy's formulation.
- The 30-year shipbuilding plan was designed to meet the FY2020 threat; the 313-ship force is a floor and represents the maximum acceptable risk in meeting security demands of the 21st century.